



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

December 2019

Number 11

## Seasonal greetings from Peter Homan, our President

"I am pleased to report another successful year for BSHP.

Once again our thanks go to University College London for the use of their facilities for our three lectures this past year. It is good to see the numbers of students who take an interest in the history of their chosen profession.

At the Annual Conference in Southsea the weather allowed us to wallow in early sunshine, an interesting selection of papers and a chance to explore the fascinating Mary Rose. Our Summer visit was a most interesting one to the National Archives at Kew.

My thanks go to a very supportive Committee and my very best wishes to all BSHP Members for Christmas and the New Year.

I hope to meet up with some of you in Manchester in March 2020?"

## Memorial Award and Research Grant 2020

By the time you receive and read this newsletter the closing date for applications on both of these will have passed. We are pleased to say that this year we have had an excellent response for both the Burnby Bursary and for the Research Grant. The winner of the Burnby Bursary will be invited to present their paper at next year's conference.

## With This Month's Mailing You Are Receiving:

- 1) The latest issue of our journal the *Pharmaceutical Historian*, Volume 49 No.4 (December).
- 2) The programme for our annual conference next year in March in Manchester.
- 3) A booking form for the conference – the deadline for bookings is **1<sup>st</sup> February 2020**. Any questions please email [conference@bshp.org](mailto:conference@bshp.org).
- 4) An invoice, where applicable, for your membership subscription for 2020. The fee remains at £30, so please note the different ways of paying this to us. As always we'd be most grateful for early payment from those using PayPal, cheque or bank transfer. If you have not updated your Standing Order in the past year (from £20 to £30) then please arrange this now with your bank.

## Society Finances

We are delighted to report that we have had some response at last to our call for help with processing of the Society's financial records. Firstly we have had someone who can help Deborah, our Treasurer, by checking the end of year accounts prior to their Independent Examination (ie auditing). Also we have had an offer for someone who can gradually take over the Treasurer role and responsibilities. The exact timing of this has to be established and we will announce everything when finalised.

## Overseas mailings in digital format

Further to the item in recent Gazettes we've had one overseas member so far taking up the option of electing to receive the *Pharmaceutical Historian*, the Gazette and other information four times a year in pdf format as soon as the items are available. This will avoid all the delays caused by mailing printed copies. If anyone else is interested all we need from you is your email address - please contact: [honsec@bshp.org](mailto:honsec@bshp.org).

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## Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

We can confirm that we are holding a joint lecture with the Faculty for the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at Apothecaries' Hall when Dr Freya Harrison (University of Warwick) will be speaking on 'Unlocking the Medieval Medicine Cabinet'. Full details can be found here : <http://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/200601-Flier-Syd-V5.pdf>

BSHP Members are welcome to attend and also are invited to book for the buffet supper after the lecture at the member's rate of £25. This event is instead of our usual May evening meeting and will give anyone who has not visited their amazing building and hall a golden opportunity to do so.

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## Evening meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, UCL London

At this meeting Henrietta McBurney Ryan, curator and historian, gave us a talk entitled "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and ? Dr John Addenbrooke's Cabinet of *Materia Medica*". She explained that the cabinet is currently housed at St Catherine's College Cambridge in their Armitage Room.

Henrietta's talk described the contents and use of the cabinet in the context of other medical cabinets and collections of the period. She highlighted some of the more surprising objects discovered, and discussed the importance of this rare object in the history of collecting. It was in 1711 that Dr John Addenbrooke, founder of the now famous Cambridge hospital, gave his *Materia Medica* cabinet to the College.

In 2016 it was the subject of a study involving an inventory and identification of its contents. While much of the contents were the animal, vegetable and mineral substances typical of remedial medical practice of the mid-seventeenth to early-eighteenth centuries, some unexpected objects were found to be part of Addenbrooke's cabinet. Many of these curiosities were illustrated in the talk and many items await explanation, not the least of which were some man-made artefacts.

A chronology of Addenbrooke's life began the talk and focused on his medical training and as part of this his study of *materia medica*. Only part of the contents have been researched to date, there needs to be some more conservation work done before some of the original contents can be unwrapped or handled.

The talk included a short history of Addenbrooke's hospital, dating back to 1766, funded initially by a bequest in John's will.



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## Committee Membership 2020

Members are reminded that nominations for the annual election of committee members should be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 in writing (letter or email) to the Honorary Secretary.

The members of the committee due to retire at next year's AGM are:  
Shirley Ellis / Michael Jepson / Mark Nesbitt

The other existing members of the committee will need to be ratified at the AGM, which this year will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Copthorne Hotel, Manchester.

The four current Officers (Charity Trustees) of the Society will also need to be confirmed at the AGM. Our constitution states that the maximum term for the Charity Trustees is normally three years [clause 12(3)]. They are :

Peter G Homan – President (having served three years)  
Roy Allcorn – Honorary Secretary (having served three years)  
Christopher Duffin – Vice-President (having served one year)  
Deborah Bishop – Honorary Treasurer (having served four years since the new constitution)

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## Obituary - Professor Terry Turner, by Briony Hudson

Terry Turner was a founder member of BSHP, the organiser of its first conference in 1967 in his home city of Cardiff, and attended many BSHP conferences, often as a speaker.

He started his pharmacy career aged 14 with the renowned Cardiff pharmacy, Robert Drane. After National Service with the Welsh Fusiliers, he studied the BPharm course at Cardiff Technical College from 1951. Other than a short stint as manager at Drane's pharmacy, he spent the rest of his life at Cardiff's School of Pharmacy progressing from Lecturer in Microbiology, to Senior Lecturer in Pharmacognosy and Head of the Pharmacognosy department, and Emeritus Professor on his retirement. In addition to pharmacognosy, he became a specialist in surgical dressing research, publishing widely in both areas.

Terry was a founder member of the new Pharmaceutical Society Welsh Executive or Rhanbarth de Cymru, established in 1976. He was elected as a PSGB Fellow in the same year, and chaired the Welsh Executive from 1980-81. He was awarded the OBE in 1989 for services to pharmacy in Wales, and the PSGB Charter Silver Medal in 1991 for outstanding service to the profession.

He had always been interested in pharmacy history, and began to collect material that was offered from colleagues, closing down businesses and found in sales. In the early 1980s, items from his collection were first put on display in the School of Pharmacy's Redwood Building, and the range and extent of objects on show has steadily grown to its current total of around 1500 objects over 3 floors. In 2009, he gave his collection, known as The Turner Collection, to Cardiff University for display at the School of Pharmacy. He also established a significant display of pharmacy history in the Apothecary's Hall at the National Botanic Garden of Wales, and donated an important collection of *materia medica* specimens to Amgueddfa Cymru (National Museum Wales).



In 2017 he was awarded our Leslie Matthews Medal for his original and scholarly work in the history of British pharmacy.

He was a passionate advocate for pharmacy history, a wonderful storyteller, and a generous donor of time and expertise. His lasting legacy is his collections and the enthusiasm for pharmacy history that he inspired in so many people in Cardiff and beyond.

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## Events 2020

- 1) "William Osler – A Centenary Symposium". Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Christ Church, Oxford. (email the Osler Club Secretary [richard.osborn@cheerful.com](mailto:richard.osborn@cheerful.com) for further information)
- 2) "Celebrating Women in History, Science and the Arts". 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 4.30pm Apothecaries. (see [www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Celebration-of-women-9.pdf](http://www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Celebration-of-women-9.pdf))
- 3) Scottish Society for the History of Medicine: "Teaching Anatomy from Classical to Modern Times" Friday/Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. (see <https://sshm.ac.uk/future-meetings/>)
- 4) Our Summer visit next year will be at 2pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July to the St John's Historical Society (11<sup>th</sup> Century Museum, St John's Ambulance, Clerkenwell, London). This will cost £10 and full details will be included in the next Gazette in April 2020.
- 5) Our October evening meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at UCL at 5.30pm (details to follow early next year)

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## New Members

We are pleased to welcome one new member this period: Anthony Butler from St Andrews, Fife

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## Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : [info@bshp.org](mailto:info@bshp.org)



# Apothecaries and the plant trade in late seventeenth-century Paris (title tbc)

Lecture by  
**Dr Emma Spary**

*Reader in the History of Modern European Knowledge,  
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge*

**Monday 10 February 2020 at 5.30pm**

Maplethorpe Lecture Theatre, UCL School of Pharmacy,  
29- 39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX

Nearest Tube: Russell Square      Refreshments will be served from 5.00pm

**NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

Questions? Contact Kim Walker, BSHP Programme Secretary:  
[events@bshp.org](mailto:events@bshp.org)  
[www.bshp.org](http://www.bshp.org)

Image: Interior of a French Pharmacy, Wellcome Collection CCBY